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HEALTH MATTERS *in Montana*

VOL. 1 — NO. 1

Hospital & Medical Facilities Division

Department of Health & Environmental Sciences, Cogswell Building, Helena 59601

Legislature Debates Health Issues

EDITOR'S NOTE: This issue of HEALTH MATTERS features health legislation introduced in the 1979 Montana Legislature. Our page 1 lead story addresses the status of legislation related to the activities of the Hospital and Medical Facilities Division. A partial list of health legislation is printed on pages 5 and 6. A list of the Legislators on key health committees appears on page 2.

* * *

The 1979 Legislature is considering a number of bills that would affect Montana's health care system.

Most critical to the activities of the Hospital & Medical Facilities Division are: SB100, to revise the current Certificate of Need Law; HB364, to allow blue lights on ambulances; and HB600, to exempt volunteer ambulance drivers from liability.

SB100, drafted by the Health Planning & Resource Development Bureau with the help of a special task force, passed third reading, 47-0, on February 20, and was sent to the House. It was heard in the House Human Services Committee March 2.

The existing Certificate of Need law requires certain health facilities and services to obtain from the State Department of Health approval for large capital expenditures or changes in service. SB100 would raise the threshhold for review from $50,000 to $150,000, and would extend the requirement to psychiatric and tuberculosis hospitals, kidney disease treatment centers, ambulatory surgical facilities, and health maintenance organizations. Other covered facilities include general hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient facilities, public health centers, infirmaries, alcohol and drug dependency centers, and home health agencies.

HB364 would allow ambulances to use blue lights, previously restricted to police vehicles. The bill was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

HB600 would amend the existing Good Samaritan Act to exempt volunteer ambulance drivers and attendants from liability while performing ambulance runs. It was given second reading in the House on February 19.

Other health-related bills would: revise the state alcoholism treatment program; require immunizations for all school children; assess an additional tax on cigarettes to be used for a tumor registry and a health information hotline; require public schools to add drug education to their curriculum; limit smoking areas in public places.

SB45, to revise professional and occupational licensing laws, passed both houses and was signed by Governor Thomas Judge.

The Health Planning & Resource Development Bureau maintains a status sheet on all health bills. The public is welcome to call 449-3121 for information.

The status of any bill introduced in the Legislature can be obtained from the Legislative Council office, Room 138, Capitol Building. Phone: (406) 449-5533.

In this building, future directions for Montana's health care system are being determined by Legislators from across the state. (Montana Highway photo)

SHPDA Seeks Renewal Grant

The Health Planning & Resource Development Bureau is working to meet the deadline for applying for full federal designation as the State Health Planning & Development Agency (SHPDA) for Montana. Currently, the Bureau has a conditional designation.

To achieve full designation, the Bureau must present to DHEW an acceptable Certificate of Need (CON) law, a Preliminary State Health Plan (PSHP), and a complete grant application.

If the Montana Legislature passes SB100, the Montana CON law will be in compliance. The first phase of the PSHP was released in September, 1978. The second phase should be ready for review and comment of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council by April 9 with a public hearing tentatively scheduled for April 16. The grant application still has to go through A-95 and SHCC reviews and a public hearing.

By law, a SHPDA is allowed 36 months of conditional designation. Montana's expires on July 1, 1979. The Bureau hopes to have its application for full designation completed and submitted to the Denver regional office by May 2.

EMS Pilots "First Responder" Training Program

The Emergency Medical Service Bureau, with the support and cooperation of the Montana Highway Patrol, is embarking on a new, 40-hour Department of Transportation program entitled "First Responder Training." The EMS Bureau is developing a mechanism of instruction and certification, and is training instructors and coordinators in the use of the lesson plans.

The course gives non-ambulance personnel who may be first responders to an accident or illness the basic life-support skills to stabilize a victim without sophisticated equipment until an ambulance arrives.

The Montana pilot project will provide First Responder Training to all Montana Highway Patrol officers. The program with the Patrol will be completed within one year. After that, the program will be available to other law enforcement and public service agencies.

Information about First Responder Training can be obtained from the EMS Bureau, Cogswell Building, Helena, MT, 59601. Phone (406) 449-3895.

Legislative Health Committees

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Holmes, Polly, Chairman
Frates, Gene, Vice-Chairman
Azzara, James
Bennett, W. F.
Dozier, Robert
Fabrega, Jay
Feda, G. C.
Gesek, Patricia E.
Gould, R. Budd
Harrington, Dan W.
Hemstad, Andrea
Keyser, Kerry
O'Connell, Helen G.
Pavlovich, Robert J.
Robbins, Ken
Rosenthal, Jonas H.
Stobie, Chris H.
Tropila, Joe
Wyrick, Harold A.

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Olson, S. A., Chairman
Rasmussen, Tom, Vice-Chairman
Himsl, Matt
Lensink, Everett
Norman, Bill
Palmer, Bob
Ryan, Patrick

Eye Infections Worry Officials

A threat of gonococcal eye infection in newborns is of concern to health department authorities who are responsible for enforcing Montana's hospital licensing law requiring "prophylactic drops to be instilled in the eyes of the infant before it leaves the delivery area." Gonococcal eye infection was once the major cause of blindness in children.

According to Dr. Richard Hopkins, medical epidemiologist for Preventive Health Services Bureau, 1,089 infants were at risk in 1977 and 1978 because they received ineffective prophylaxis or no prophylaxis at all. Birth certificate statistics from January 1, 1977 to November 30, 1978 show that 204 babies born in Montana did not receive any eye treatment at all, and that 885 newborns received treatment with a sulfa drug which is not deemed effective against gonococcal eye infection. Hopkins noted that unprotected newborns are vulnerable because over 2,000 new cases of gonorrhea are reported every year in Montana.

Hospital licensing officials are urging hospital administrators, pediatricians, and obstetricians to review nursery and delivery room procedures to assure that every baby born in their hospital receives effective eye prophylaxis. Parents who plan home births are cautioned to safeguard their newborns in the same way. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends silver nitrate solution as the most effective prophylactic agent.

Additional information is available from Dr. Richard Hopkins, Preventive Health Services Bureau, Cogswell Building, Helena, MT. Phone (406) 449-2645.

HEALTH MATTERS
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Health Matters is distributed free of charge to constituents of the Division and to any interested person on request.

Views and comments are welcome at the above address.

Division Administrator— George Fenner
Editor Marylor Lahey
Editor Virginia Getz

ARTCRAFT PRINTERS

House Bills

HEALTH-RELATED BILLS IN THE HOUSE

NO	AUTHOR	SUBJECT	REFERRED TO
40	Metcalf	To provide for a senior citizen representative on the Board of Nursing Home Administrators.	Conference Committee
[illegible]	Kropp	To provide for a public member on the Board of Optometrists...	Governor
[illegible]	Hurwitz	To provide for expanded local government review of sanitary requirements for subdivisions...	Local Government
[illegible]	Keyser, Lund, Donaldson, et al	To revise the law concerning habitual traffic offenders by reducing the time of accumulation of points from 5 years to 3 years...	Transmitted S. Hwys. & Trans
[illegible]	Ellis, Brand, Menahan, et al	To improve the delivery of human services through the development and implementation of a plan to provide for one-stop service...	Transmitted S. Public Health
[illegible]	Menahan, Ellis, Meyer, et al	To create a permanent legislative Human Services oversight committee...	Appropriations
[illegible]	Rosenthal, Scully	To generally revise and clarify investigatory duties of County Welfare Department concerning abused, neglected, or dependent children...	Judiciary
166	Hemstad, McBride, Cooney, et al	To amend and clarify the authority of Department of Health & Environmental Sciences to adopt and enforce rules for control of communicable diseases...	Transmitted to S. Public Health
196	Ellis, Gerke, Gould, et al	Establishing a Division of Visual Services in Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services...	Printing
[illegible]	Holmes	To increase tax on cigarettes sold or possessed in State of Montana by 1 cent per pack...	Taxation
[illegible]	Bennett	To permit the Board of Dentists to establish examination standards and procedures...	Engrossing
[illegible]14	Bennett	To change the Board of Dentistry to include dental hygienists...	Transmitted to Senate 2/19
[illegible]	Ellerd, Holmes, Cooney, et al	To require designation of non-smoking areas in public places. .	Transmitted to Senate 2/19
[illegible]	Brand, Keyser, Hand, et al	To establish a Veterans' Home at Twin Bridges...	Appropriations
[illegible]71	Azzara, Eudaily, Huennekens, et al	To appropriate $350,000 to Department of Health for completion of health effects and monitoring study of ambient air pollution concentrations...	Appropriations
[illegible]09	Waldron, Rasmussen	To revise the method of funding direct local Public Health Services...	24-hour notice
304	Kanduch, Magone	To prohibit smoking in restaurants unless signs are posted that designate smoking areas	Human Services (hearing 2/7)
324	Menahan, Baeth, Brand	To eliminate duplication of responsibilities for treatment of alcoholism...	Transmitted S. Public Health
464	Uhde, Keedy	To allow the use of blue lights on ambulances.	Highways & Transp (hearing 2/20)
409	Holmes, Dussault, Metcalf	To establish a Medical Review Board...	Human Services
411	Lund	To generally revise Section 7-34-2134, MCA (Relating to hospital districts)	Taxation (hearing 3/1)
462	Gould, Ellis	To modify the distribution of proceeds from the tax on beer.	Taxation
5[illegible]	Lory, Scully	To require a report on the sale or transfer of precursors to controlled substances.	Transmitted to Senate 2/19
544	Donaldson, Keyser, Gould	To revise the eligibility requirements for the Driver Improvement Program.	Transmitted to S. Hwys. & Trans
571	Menahan	Creating a Board of Physical Therapy Examiners...	State Admin.
5[illegible]4	Gerke	Eliminating the requirement that State funds appropriated for Mental Health Centers may not exceed 50% of the budget approved for the centers.	Appropriations
585	Gould, Harrington, Burnett	To revise the disciplinary powers of the Board of Dentists...	Second reading
587	Waldron, Dussault, Holmes, et al	To regulate the practice of Midwifery...	24-hour notice
597	Gerke, Ellerd, Ellis, et al	To eliminate references to the Board of Institutions	Transmitted State Admin
600	Bardanouve	To define volunteer ambulance driver	Second reading
608	Gould, Ramirez, Scully, et al	To provide increased penalties for criminal sale of dangerous drugs.	Transmitted Judiciary
621	Waldron, Fagg, Cooney, et al	To require the Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services and others to gather statistics on domestic violence and spouse abuse in the State for a period of 5 years	Transmitted to Senate 2/19
631	Burnett, Schultz	To remove the State from the retail liquor business.	Taxation
647	Harrington, Johnson Cooney, et al	To generally revise the laws concerning Adult Services.	Select Comm. on Aging
654	Kolstad, Roth, Hurwitz, et al	Establishing a Hemophilia Treatment Program...	Appropriations
655	Moore, O'Hara	To establish Personal Care Facilities	Second reading
660	Gesek, Harrington, Metcalf, et al	To require an insurance policy to state that it does not provide coverage for mental health care...	Transmitted to Senate 2/19
679	Metcalf, Palmer	To appropriate funds to SRS to increase benefits to senior citizens..	Select Comm. on Aging
680	Kvaalen	To abolish the Environmental Quality Council.	State Admin. (hearing 2/20)
681	Oberg, Harper, Reichert	Establishing a pilot program to provide a group home for senior citizens.	Select Comm. on Aging
689	H. Robbins, Keyser, Moore, et al	To remove the Emergency Medical Technician Program from the Department of Health ..	Local Government
692	Dussault	To ensure that Medicaid eligible persons may not receive County medical assistance.	Second reading
696	Dozier	Changing the County share of participation in the Aid to Dependent Children Grants	Second reading
703	Moore, Dover	To phase out State-operated State liquor stores...	State Admin. (hearing 2/20)
715	Marks, Donaldson, Hand, et al	To require the Board of Health to adopt the Federal Ambient Air Quality Standards promulgated by the EPA...	24-hour notice
716	Kemmis, Bardanouve, Gerke, et al	To amend the Clean Air Act of Montana. .	Printing
722	Dozier	To remove the requirement that Department of SRS pay County share of public assistance.	Second reading
724	Gould	To change distribution of the license tax on liquor.	Taxation (hearing 2/22)
725	Gould	To generally revise the laws relating to treatment of alcoholism.	Taxation
771	Dussault	To require the Department of SRS to follow priorities established by the Legislature when there are insufficient funds to provide medical care for all eligible persons.	Second reading
777	Huennekens, Vincent	To give those who are injured by an intoxicated person a cause of action against anyone who unlawfully furnished the intoxicated person with alcoholic beverages.	24-hour notice
783	Lory, Ramirez	To provide liens for physicians, nurses, and hospitals for services rendered.	Second reading
810	Natural Resources	To accelerate the periodic agency evaluation of the Board of Sanitarians. .	Second reading

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS

NO	AUTHOR	SUBJECT	REFERRED TO
11	Gesek, Huennekens, Dussault	Directing the Governor's Office to conduct a study of the method of establishing per diem rates and method of assessing patient charges for Warm Springs State Hospital.	Second reading
[illegible]	O'Connell, Quilici, Porter, et al	Applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention to amend the Constitution to protect the lives of the unborn.	Second reading
[illegible]	Donaldson, Vinger, Feda, et al	Encouraging the Congress of the United States etc., to fully examine the impact of more restrictive occupational and health standards.	Transmitted S. Bus. & Indus.

Personnel Changes

Federal Field Coordinator

Russell D. Miller, field coordinator for the National Health Service Corps, established his headquarters in Helena, February 1, in the office of the Hospital & Medical Facilities Division. He will work in cooperation with the Division staff.

Miller, a Kansas native, came to Helena from Lame Deer, where he was Director of the Indian Health Center for seven years. His new duties consist in identifying the appropriate local applicant for grants from the National Health Service Corps, Rural Health Initiative, and/or Health Underserved Rural Area projects. He will assist grantees to organize and train a local health board and to coordinate their grant activities with existing systems of inpatient care, specialty consultation, and ancillary therapies.

He will help NHSC physicians, dentists, and other professionals establish contact with licensing boards, professional associations, and hospital medical staffs.

He will take part in reviewing applications from Montana communities and will assist in placing Corps personnel with grantees.

For further information on the National Health Service Corps and the other rural health projects, write Russell Miller, c/o Hospital & Medical Facilities Division, Cogswell Building, Helena, MT, 59601, or phone (406) 449-3121.

Construction Consultant

Warren J. Roberts joined the staff February 20. He replaces Leo Krisl, who retired December 31, as building construction consultant. He is assigned pro rata to both the Licensing and the Health Planning bureaus to review and approve plans for medical facility construction and to inspect construction projects.

A graduate in mechanical engineering from Montana State University, he has worked as an engineer for 26 years, mainly at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls.

Librarian

Eileen Schubring also joined the Division staff on February 20. She is a graduate in library science and education from Central Michigan University and will be responsible for completing the organization of the health planning reference library. She will conduct the day-to-day operation of the library and do health planning research.

Before coming to the Division, Schubring worked two years for the Department of Administration. She has had experience developing learning packages and directing a resource center.

She replaces Virginia Rennick, who now holds the position of health planner.

Construction Loans Offered to Rural Health Grantees

The Farmers Home Administration has set aside $25,000,000 in fiscal 1979 for 5% construction loans to rural health project grantees.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding between Bob Bergland, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Joseph Califano, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare, the Farmers Home Administration will make funds available from its Community Facility Loan Program to build and equip outpatient health clinics in rural areas of 10,000 or less.

The loans are offered to grantees of HEW's rural health projects — Community Health Centers (CHC), Health Underserved Rural Areas (HURA), or Migrant Health Clinics (MH) — and may be used for construction, enlargement, and/or equipping community non-profit health clinics.

Successful loan applicants will continue to receive a DHEW operating grant throughout the life of the loan and may use grant money to generate cash flow needed to repay the loan. HEW will guarantee placement of medical personnel through the National Health Service Corps. (See article elsewhere in this issue on the new Montana coordinator for the National Health Service Corps, Russell Miller.)

Applications, which must include verification from HEW that the applicant is a rural health project grantee, will be reviewed jointly by Farmers Home Administration State Directors and HEW Regional Health Administrators. All construction proposals are subject to reviews by state health planning agencies.

Prospective applicants should obtain preapplication forms from their nearest Farmers Home Administration District Office, and should indicate that the application will be under the "joint USDA/DHEW agreement for the Community Loan Program." Applications will be accepted at any time. Information can be obtained from Ted Hebnes, Chief, Community Programs, Farmers Home Administration, Box 850, Federal Building, Bozeman, Montana 59715. Phone (406) 587-5271.

Information about state project review is available from David Thomas, Health Planning & Resource Development Bureau, Cogswell Building, Helena, MT, 59601. Phone (406) 449-3121.

Project Review Summary

PROJECT REVIEW REPORT 10 — MONTH ENDING 31 OCT. 78

Sponsor/Location	Proposal	Letter of Intent	Application Received	Application Complete	Type of Review	Cost	HSA Recom-mendation	SHPDA Decision Date	Ap-peal	Final Action
Francis Mahon Deaconess Glasgow	Physician's Clinic	24 May 78	19 June 78	24 July 78	C/N (R) 1122	800,000	A/6 Oct 78	A/11 Oct 78	No	A
Cooney Convalescent Home Helena	License Change 39 SN-60 SN 24 IC-0 IC	2 Aug. 78			C/N (AR)	-0-	A/11 Aug 78	A/12 Oct 78	No	A
Clark Fork Valley Hosp. Plains	Add 12 LTC beds			13 May 77	C/N (R) 1122	100,011	D/20 July 77	D/8 May 78	Yes	A
Mineral County Hosp. Superior	X-ray equipment	11 Sept. 78			C/N (AR) 1122	156,477	A/2 Oct 78	A/11 Oct 78	No	A
St. James Hospital Butte	Add computer equipment	30 Oct. 78			C/N	28,100	N/R 1 Nov 78	N/R 1 Nov 78		N/R
Cascade Co. Nursing Home Great Falls	Add 3 beds equipment replacement rennovation	30 Oct. 78			C/N 1122	56,500				

PROJECT REVIEW REPORT 11 — MONTH ENDING NOV 78

Sponsor/Location	Proposal	Letter of Intent	Application Received	Application Complete	Type of Review	Cost	HSA Recom-mendation	SHPDA Decision Date	Ap-peal	Final Action
Columbus Hospital Great Falls	Expand ESRD		14 Nov 78		C/N	84,100				
St. James Hospital Butte	Replace Ultrasound	14 Nov 78	N/R			68,000	20 Nov 78			N/R
St. Patrick's Hospital Missoula	Add Linear Accl.	15 Nov 78			C/N 1122	687,500				
Powder River Nursing Home Broadus	Add HHA	22 Nov 78			C/N	?				
Billings Deaconess Billings	Add Ultrasound	30 Nov 78			C/N 1122	71,400				
Billings Deaconess Billings	Replace Scintil-lation Camera	30 Nov 78			C/N 1122	140,150				

PROJECT REVIEW REPORT 12 — MONTH ENDING 31 DEC 78

Sponsor/Location	Proposal	Letter of Intent	Application Received	Application Complete	Type of Review	Cost	HSA Recom-mendation	SHPDA Decision Date	Ap-peal	Final Action
Cascade County Conval. Nursing Home Great Falls	Add 3 beds; renovation	31 Oct 78			CN/ (AR) 1122	56,500	A/20 Dec 78	A/18 Dec 78	No	
Billings Deaconess Billings	Add Ultrasound	30 Nov 78			C/N (AR) 1122	70,400	A/20 Dec 78	A/18 Dec 78	No	
Billings Deaconess Billings	Scintillation camera replacement	30 Nov 78			C/N (AR) 1122	140,150	A/20 Dec 78	A/18 Dec 78	No	
Columbus Hospital Great Falls	ESRD expansion		13 Nov 78	5 Dec 78	C/N (R) 1122	84,100	A/20 Dec 78	A/18 Dec 78	No	
Northern Mt. Hospital Havre	X-ray equipment replacement	11 Dec 78			C/N (AR) 1122	104,000	A/20 Dec 78	A/18 Dec 78	No	
McAuley Nursing home Great Falls	Replace existing facility	22 Nov 78								
St. James Hospital Butte	Add CT scanner	20 Dec 78			C/N 1122	150,000				

Senate Legislation

BILLS RELATED TO HEALTH IN THE SENATE

N	[illegible]	[illegible]	REFERRED TO
9	Watt, Jergeson	Revise local Government laws about Human Services, Water, Waste and Utility Services	Local Government
[illegible]	Gait	Revise laws about alcohol	Signed by Gov. 2/20/79
[illegible]	[illegible], et al	Revise laws about professional and occupational licensing.	Signed by Gov. 2/13/79
[illegible]	Norman	Require insurance companies and health service corporations, who issue health insurance policies in Montana to include provisions in contracts for treatment coverage of alcoholism chemical dependency, and drug addiction	Transferred to House
3[illegible]	[illegible], et al	Authorizing manufacture, sale, possession and distribution of Laetrile	Public Health Hearing 2/16/79
[illegible]	Norman, Menahan	Revising laws relating to health care facilities, defining health care facilities including Home Health Agencies. (Certificate of Need)	Transmitted to House
[illegible]	Ryan, Rasmussen	Act clarifying the relationship between the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and local Boards of Health.	House Human Services
[illegible]	[illegible]aylock	Act generally revising and clarifying laws relating to health and safety.	Signed by Speaker 2/16/79
[illegible]	[illegible]ay [illegible]	Act generally revising and clarifying laws relating to Social Services and Institutions.	Signed by Speaker 2/16/79
15	Mehrens, Peterson, et al	Act generally revising the Occupational Disease Act of Montana ..	House Labor & Employment Relations
[illegible]	Van Valkenburg, Olson, et al	Act providing for immunization of pupils in public and private schools	House Human Services
[illegible]	Turnace, et al	Require courses on health hazards of marijuana.	Third reading
8[illegible]	Hazelbaker, et al	Limit employees of public hospital districts to certain legal holidays.	Re-referred to Bus. & In.
6	Norman	Act to allow licensed foster parents of minor children to administer certain types of medication.	House Human Services
238	Rasmussen	Act removing competition between private mental health sector and community mental health centers.	Third reading 2/16/79
246	Hager, Brown, Roskie	Act changing the composition of the Environmental Quality Council and rename it the Legislative Environmental Council.	Third reading 2/19/79
280	Hazelbaker, Kolstad, et al	Act clarifying and revising holiday and leave time for employees of public hospital districts.	Transmitted to House 2/17/79
334	O'Hara	Act amending local Government laws relating to rural fire districts, hospital districts, and cemetary districts...	House Local Government
337	Palmer, Regan, Boylan	Act requiring identification of all drug products.	Transmitted to House
393	Towe	Revise laws relating to treatment of the mentally ill.	Second reading
400	Towe, Jergeson	Act transfering function of Mental Disabilities Board of visitors from Executive branch to Legislative branch...	Re-referred to Public Health hearing 2/16/79
419	Towe, Thiessen, Gerke	Act to abolish Mental Disabilities Board of visitors and transfer some of its functions to office of Legislative Auditor.	Second reading
425	Thiessen, et al	Act to change use of State owned nursing home at Glendive.	Public Health hearing 2/19/79
443	Jergeson, Hinsl, Thiessen	Act to create a Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing within the Department of Business Regulations...	State Admin. hearing 2/16/79
494	Lensink	Act to establish when a prescription must be given to an individual who has an eye examination...	Public Health hearing 2/19/79
500	Etchart, Dover, Graham	Act to authorize creation of Health Care Facilities liability protection trusts.	Bus. & Indus. hearing 2/19/79
506	Natural Resrcs. Committee	Act to amend Montana Environmental Policy Act to specify that Act does not expand the substantive decision making authority of State agencies.	Second reading

NOTE: The status of bills changes almost daily. Updates can be obtained from the Public Information Office of the Legislative Council. Phone (406) 449-5553.

HEALTH MATTERS
Hospital & Medical Facilities Division
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Application to mail at 2nd class rates is pending at Helena, MT 59601